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felt internally the justice of the political doctrines he supported, would not hesitate to do. A man could give but one pledge of his sincerity on these points; and that consisted in a desire that all persons should have the opportunity, an opportunity afforded by education, of examining his opinions, whether they were founded in theory or in practice, whether they were beneficial or useless. Every man who did not wish to be looked upon as a mere hypocrite in his politics, every man who feared not to meet a public scrutiny, must concur in the propriety of thus granting that information, which would enable all men to investigate his conduct. They had this test, by which real purity could be distinguished from that which only usurped the name. It also afforded him a favourable presentiment of the success of their undertaking, when he saw it supported by that respectable, enlightened and virtuous class of society, who, it had been said, and the observation could not be too often repeated, formed the chief beauty, as well as the principal security of a state. To the middle order of society, the wants of their fellow-creatures were perfectly known; in removing those wants, they would not shun personal inconvenience, they would not confine themselves to the mere advance of money, which was the only contribution of lazy wealth, the wretched compromise with the conscience of the affluent, intended to relieve them from performing the active and more important duties of benevolence. He was exceedingly happy that the association was founded and supported by such a class of people; on whose virtue and integrity he would not then dilate, however pleasing the subject, because he saw himself surrounded by so many of them. This, however,

he would say, that on *them* must depend the improvement and increase of whatever good now existed in the country, of whatever good might hereafter be expected. He hoped, he most earnestly hoped, they were that day laying the foundation stone of a great asylum, in which thousands of human creatures would take refuge. He doubted not, that long after every human being he then addressed had ceased to exist, long after every person who heard him was cold in his grave, his name would be blessed by hundreds of thousands of his grateful fellow creatures, whom he had assisted to raise from degradation to usefulness, from depravity and ignorance to virtue and intellectual endowment. The Hon. Gentleman concluded by stating, that he was directed to inform the individuals present, that subscription books were then open, for the convenience of such gentlemen as pleased to enter their names and contributions.

Mr. Hume then moved, That Sir James Mackintosh do leave the Chair, and that Mr. Wakefield do preside therein; which having been carried, the Hon. Gentleman moved,

That the thanks of the meeting be given to Sir James Mackintosh, for the obliging manner in which he accepted the office of Chairman, and for the very able and distinguished manner in which he has supported the objects, and conducted the business of this meeting.

This motion was carried by acclamation, and the meeting was then adjourned *sine die*.

The Report states, that a room, well adapted for the uses of this Association, has been taken on the ground floor of the Grand Hotel in Covent Garden, where attendance is given from ten to four daily.

JOSEPH FOX, Secretary.

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

UNITARIAN SOCIETY.

At a Special General Meeting of the Unitarian Society for promoting christian knowledge and the practice of virtue, by the distribution of books, convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the act lately passed for the "relief of persons who impugn the doctrine of the

trinity," holden at the chapel in Essex-street, July 30th, 1813,

The Rev. THOMAS BELSHAM, in the chair.

The following resolutions moved by Isaac Solly, Esq., and seconded by Sir Charles Colville, were adopted.

Resolved, 1. That the members of this Society view with great satisfaction the recent success of a measure, which more

than twenty years ago they solicited in vain, though supported by the transcendent abilities of the late Mr. Fox; and they congratulate each other, and the friends of civil and religious liberty in general, that by the bill which has lately passed for the "relief of those who impugn the doctrine of the trinity," persons who profess their dissent from that article of the established creed are no longer exposed to severe and ruinous penalties, but are placed under the protection of the law.

2. That the members of this society are truly grateful to the legislature for the liberality and unanimity with which this important measure was received; and for the readiness and alacrity with which, when the original bill was lost, through a technical informality, a new and amended bill was allowed to be introduced; was expedited through the necessary forms, and was passed by both houses in time to receive the Royal assent previously to the prorogation of Parliament.

3. That this society hail the present measure, as an auspicious prelude to that happy day, when all penal laws and political restrictions on religious grounds shall be for ever abolished; when an invidious and limited toleration shall give way to universal religious liberty; and when all, without distinction, shall be entitled by law to the possession of those civil and political privileges which are the birth-right of Britons.

4. That the thanks of this society be given to that able and enlightened member of Parliament, William Smith, Esq., for the generous zeal with which he has stood forward, upon this and many other occasions, to vindicate the rights and liberties of his fellow-subjects; for the promptitude and cheerfulness with which he undertook to introduce this important measure into Parliament, and for the attention and perseverance with which he watched and supported the measure in every stage of its progress, till the bill, which entitles its author to a conspicuous rank in the honourable records of civil and religious liberty, received the royal assent.

5. That the chairman be desired to communicate these resolutions of the society to Mr. Smith.

THOMAS BELSHAM, Chairman.

KILKENNY CATHOLIC MEETING.

At a Meeting of the Catholics of the county and city of Kilkenny, held at the Black Abbey, on Wednesday, the 4th of August, 1813,

CAPTAIN BRYAN in the chair,

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That it is our firm determination never to relax in constitutional pursuit of our claims, until, by the complete and unconditional restoration of our just rights, our character, our principles and our faith, shall be vindicated from the foul aspersions and suspicions which the present system of exclusion cast upon them.

That the petition adopted by the last general meeting of the Catholics of Ireland be adopted as the petition of the Catholics of the county and city of Kilkenny.

That the Earl of Ormonde be requested to present our petition to the Lords, and the Hon. James Butler to the Commons, and that the Hon. F. Ponsonby be requested to support it.

Resolved, That the existence of the penal laws against us renders us a people alien and outcast from the privileges and freedom of the English constitution; that this free constitution of England is to us more a subject of insulting and injurious mockery, than of benefit and pride; that relatively to us, it is a code of partial and oppressive enactments, and not a system of equal and cherishing law; that, living, therefore, under the crown, but not under the constitution, a degraded race, we feel ourselves in a more debased condition than the slaves of an absolute monarchy, where tyranny is not the portion of the *few*, but of *ALL*.

Resolved, That it is our duty, as well as our glory, to struggle against this bondage; that we will not be willing slaves; that we know our religion not to be the *reason*, but the *pretext*, of hypocritical tyranny for enslavement; England may oppress, but she shall not dupe us.

Resolved, Therefore, that it is a wise and manly policy to proclaim our slavery to Europe, in the most distinct manner possible, and that for this purpose, the measure of applying to the Spanish Cortes for its intercession with our Sovereign, on our behalf, meets our most decided approbation. If we suffer, let England, at least be put to shame.

Resolved, That we congratulate our fellow-countrymen, of all ranks and classes, upon the approaching deliverance of Ireland from the tantalizing and intolerant administration of the Duke of Richmond. Ireland has never known so